

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Physical Status

1. The physical and hygienic status of the Rumanian Air Force (RumAF) personnel was on a continual downgrade. This fact was observed not only by the regimental commanders but also by members of the Sanitary Service (Serviciul Sanitar) and was always discussed at Military Air Force Command (Comandamentul Fortelor Aeriene Militare - CFAM) meetings and within the regiments themselves. This condition existed because the Medical Commissions, probably under political pressure, permitted physically sub-standard personnel to enter the ranks of AF rated personnel. Usually the physically sub-standard rated personnel were assigned to liaison, reconnaissance, or transport units; some were even assigned to bomber units, but many were being grounded.
2. During 1951, at Stalin Airfield alone, 10 pilots were grounded or transferred to other AF units for medical reasons. In addition, four active pilots had syphilis and were taking regular treatment but had not been discharged. this situation had to exist because of the lack of rated personnel. The syphilitic personnel who had been admitted into the Air Force were, however, to be discharged upon arrival of ample replacements.

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3. Although many rated personnel suffered from hepatitis or had chronic gastric disorders, Air Force kitchens were not prepared to provide special diets. Consequently, many were grounded for purely medical reasons.

[redacted] the Sanitary Commission was aware of this fact, because [redacted] in 1951, the newly-commissioned pilots were in much better physical condition than those of previous years.

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4. Food in the Air Force was insufficient and the allegation that rated personnel received 4,500 calories daily was an exaggerated boast. They received under 3,000 calories daily because: a. they received less than the prescribed quantity of food; b. food was not eaten because of its poor quality; and c. preparation of food was especially poor. The majority of the meals consisted of beans, potatoes, cabbage, and bread.

5. Food was the number one preoccupation of rated personnel. [redacted]

[redacted] When a new pilot was assigned [redacted] his first question was, "How is the food here?" Nutrition had become one of the very important problems within the Air Force. The responsibility for this condition fell upon the regimental doctors and the rear service organizations. [redacted]

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6. Although the physical training schedule was followed, [redacted] Many who had previously been active in sports complained that they did not have time and were too emaciated to consider sports a pleasure. [redacted]

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[redacted] Actually, there was only one hour of physical training per week [redacted]

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[redacted] All were in poor physical condition and tired very quickly. The tumbling and jumping exercises which were part of the simulated parachute training caused many accidents. The daily work schedules were very intense and had a tiring effect upon the rated personnel, particularly during the summer when all personnel were restricted to the airfield area. It was very warm and flight personnel had to wear their flying suits continuously during the day. On completion of a flight, the pilot would leave his plane, seek a shady spot, and go to sleep.

7. Until 1952, only a few of the fighter pilots and probably the jet pilots had participated in high-altitude training (6,000 m.) using oxygen masks. No materials whatsoever were available to acquaint rated personnel, at least theoretically, with high altitude flying. There was no medical literature available for the education of the doctors in this field.

8. In 1952, the CFAM received its first low-pressure chamber from the USSR. In March 1952, [redacted] an order [redacted] stated that every pilot would have to participate in low-pressure training. This same order stated that the simulated parachute training would have to be intensified so that actual parachute jumps could be made.

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9. On the whole, [redacted] malnutrition and primarily overwork were the principal causes of the poor physical condition of rated personnel.

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[redacted] the majority of personnel lost weight and [redacted] no one gained any weight. Generally, the units at Stalin Airfield (6 and 17 Bomber Regiments) were staffed with emaciated and tired crews who carried out their daily schedules merely out of fear of the Regime. The lack of energy and ambition was most striking among Air Force pilots and was primarily evident among the younger ones.

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Intellectual Status

10. The educational level of the young rated personnel was below average, the majority having an educational background of either four years of primary school plus an apprentice school or seven years of primary school. None of the new pilots had high school or university backgrounds; all were recruited from the working classes. The majority of these read and wrote with difficulty. All personnel were obliged to subscribe to either of the newspapers Scanteia or Glasul Armatei, but they never read them. [redacted] almost all of the pilots' quarters at Stalin Airfield [redacted] main preoccupations were food and the weather. 25X1
11. None attended the theater. At night they went to the Armed Forces House (Casa Armatei) to drink wine or beer under the surveillance of the Counter Information Officers. [redacted] all pilots were exactly the same, had the same preoccupations and habits and no individuality. They were all ignorant of music, literature, and art. During courses, none were able to remain attentive for any period of time and understood with great difficulty the subject matter taught. [redacted] lectures [redacted] were purposely simplified. However, they understood very little and forgot the lectures in a short time. 25X1
12. As proof that higher authorities were aware of the above facts, [redacted] In considering pilots to be sent to the USSR for specialized courses, Colonel Kuznetzov, Soviet Air Force adviser of the 7 Bomber Division, Stalin, stated that "they do not have the cultural level necessary to absorb the advanced Soviet technology". 25X1

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